

Body/Extremity Protection

Purpose: To examine developmental efforts to improve body armor/extremity protection against ballistic/blast/shrapnel.

Background: Operation Respond received a request from 3/11 asking for lower torso body armor for their HMMWV gunners. Reports indicate a protection coverage gap in the lower torso areas, while standing to operate turret-mounted weapons. Marine Corps Systems Command and the Naval Research Lab have developmental efforts underway to improve body armor/extremity protection against ballistic/blast/shrapnel. However, no near-term major advances in materials are expected for 6 months. The science behind the philosophies of tradeoffs between level of protection, acceptable levels of injury (from a medical perspective), weight/mobility/heat, and threats (ballistic, blast, and shrapnel) is developing.

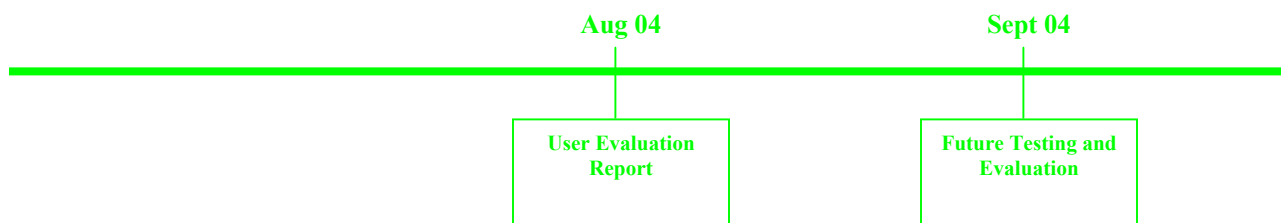


The Vietnam-era M-53s are completely out of the system and surplus. The Lab liaison with a local manufacturer produced Kevlar shorts that cover more of the femoral arteries.

Description: The “Ballistic Shorts” are made to provide National Institute of Justice Level IIIa protection from the waist to the mid-thigh. They are supported by rapidly-removable suspenders and are made up of overlapping front and rear sections to ensure full protection of the lower torso.

Deliverable Product(s): The Lab is providing 10 pairs that have been rapidly manufactured to partially satisfy 3/11’s request for 80 pairs. These will be used for fit/function tests, and to determine full I MEF requirement.

Milestones:



Action Officer: 784-3425